

Series II
Subjects Files,
1916-1973

Box 13, Folder 11

October 1960 -
May 1964

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SUBJECT: Research and Analysis of Naval Battles of World War II.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the project is to conduct research on the major naval battles of World War II and precisely record and analyze the researched material.

RESPONSIBILITY: The Chief of Naval Personnel is assigned executive responsibility for subject project with Dr. H. O. Johnson, Pers-C1b, Bureau of Naval Personnel, named as Project Manager for the Chief of Naval Personnel.

TIME SPAN: It is estimated that a period of approximately two years will be needed to complete subject project, but in any event the project is to be completed not later than 30 June 1966.

ORDERS: The Chief of Naval Personnel will order appropriate personnel to report to the Commander, U. S. Naval Base, Newport, R. I., for duty in connection with continuing research and analysis of the war in the Pacific. Personnel so ordered will be ordered further to the U. S. Naval Station, Naval Base, Newport, R. I., as the site for performing the research and analysis.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

a. General

FY 64 funds in the amount of \$10,606 will be provided by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Development. Additional funds will be provided depending on future evaluation of this project and the availability of funds to support it. The total amount of funds will not exceed \$35,000 programmed for the full life of the project. Requests for funds shall be made on an annual basis. Funds made available for this project shall be used for all essential expenses other than pay and allowances of active duty Navy personnel.

b. Funding Allocation and Controls

Funds will be allocated on the basis of quarterly request for requirements to the Project Manager, by NavCompt 372 Allotment Authorization citing funds specifically for Project Title to:

Activity Acct. No. & Address: 62660 Commanding Officer
U. S. Naval Station
Newport, R. I.

Copy to: Allotment Accounting
Number and Office 298 Commanding Officer
U. S. Naval Supply
Depot
Newport, R. I.

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Administrator of Fund

Local Project Officer or his
representative to be designated
by name in accord with
NAVCOMPT MAN 032003-1.

c. Appropriate Charges to Project Fund

Project funds shall be used for all essential expenses other than the pay and allowances of active duty Navy personnel. Appropriate charges to project funds shall include cost of:

- (1) Furniture, furnishings, and equipment not available from surplus
- (2) Civilian clerical or technical labor
- (3) Consumable office supplies, printing, printing services, and publications
- (4) Travel
- (5) Public works reimbursements for telephone and tolls, janitorial services, transportation services and tolls, and vehicular assignments
- (6) Facility modifications, alterations or related items over and above normal cyclical maintenance and repair of assigned spaces.

OFFICE SPACE, FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT:

- a. COMMANDING OFFICER NAVSTANPT will provide offices located at the southwest end, second deck of Building 87A and will assume costs for required heat, light, and normal cyclical maintenance and repair for these spaces.
- b. COMMANDING OFFICER NAVSTANPT will provide assistance in obtaining such furniture, furnishings and equipment as may be available from area surplus.
- c. PROHIBITION. No additional "Out-of-Pocket" costs shall be required nor shall charges be incurred against other government funds (appropriated or non-appropriated) in support of this project.

LIBRARY SERVICES:

The President, Naval War College, Newport, R. I., will make materials on file in the NWC library available for research and reference. This assistance does not extend to procurement services either with cost or at no cost to the Naval War College. Furnishing of library material and services must necessarily be on a basis of non-interference

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with the requirements of the staff and students of the College. Information will be issued to project personnel in accordance with the security clearances held. All Navy materials, files, charts, and the like upon the completion of subject project shall be transferred to the President, Naval War College, for appropriate disposition.

PROFESSIONAL RESUME

William B. Cooper

1. PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AS A NAVAL OFFICER

The applicant holds the rank of Commander (1105) and has had twenty-two consecutive years of service in the Naval Reserve eight of which have been on active duty. Included in this active duty has been three tours of sea duty in the Pacific aboard destroyer type vessels. The first tour was aboard the USS Herbert (APD 22) from 1943 to 1945. The ship participated in nine invasions including New Guinea, Morotai, the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. In the Philippine campaign, the applicant personally participated in the Leyte, Ormoc, Mindoro and Luzon operations. At Leyte, the USS Herbert entered the gulf on D minus 3 with the mission to land and support the troops in the conquest of Dinagat and Homonhon Islands at the entrance of Leyte Gulf. The ship remained in the gulf on various assignments, including the Ormoc invasion, until January of 1945 when the ship was detached for the Iwo Jima operation. The second Pacific tour was on the China station in late 1948 and early 1949. The third tour was aboard the USS McKean (DD 784) during the early part of the Korean Conflict. Ship operations included Task Force 77, Task Force 95, Formosa Patrol and the Inchon invasion. During this tour the applicant was awarded a Letter of Commendation from Commander, Seventh Fleet for his meritorious service aboard the USS McKean.

I am currently serving on temporary active duty which began in January 1963. My initial assignment was as a member of the Line Selection Board for Commanders. Since March of 1963 I have been attached to PERS C and assigned to the Navy Training Publications Center as a Writer and Senior Technical Advisor for one of the center's three departments engaged in the production of training publications. My specific duties have been twofold. First, I am personally writing the Team Training Guide which implements BUPERS NOTE 1510 of 5 March 1963. This two volume work is designed to provide the Surface Reserve Program with operationally oriented training to supplement the program's traditional rate training. Secondly, I have supervisory and advisory responsibilities for the substantive preparation and the clerical production of all training publications emanating from the Naval Reserve Division which is comprised of eleven military writers and a clerical pool of ten Yeomen. This current temporary active duty extends through 30 June 1964.

2. ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS IN THE FIELD OF NAVAL RESEARCH

The applicant has an academic specialization in the field of naval and maritime history. For the past fifteen months I have been conducting personal research in the Naval Records Section of the National Archives. This research is for a doctoral dissertation on the topic: "The Navy as an Agent of National Expansion in the Pacific, 1813 to 1846." It deals with the naval operations and the activities of naval officers during the fifty-five tours of duty performed by naval vessels in the Pacific between the War of 1812 and the Mexican War. Its thesis is that the historically heralded continental expansion of the early nineteenth century had its historically neglected maritime counterpart which laid the foundations for America's present day Pacific Empire. The research has been completed and the dissertation is currently being written. The opening pages of its Introduction are appended as Enclosure (A). A Masters Degree is presently held and the above described dissertation will complete all requirements for a Doctor of Philosophy Degree. Additional academic qualifications include five years of teaching experience at the University of Southern California which is also the institution at which my doctoral work was taken.

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3. PERSONAL DATA

The applicant is forty-three years of age, was married in 1947, and has two children ages six and eleven. I resided in the Los Angeles area from 1947 to 1963. I left the University of Southern California in January 1963 on a leave of absence and came to Washington for a twofold purpose. First, I had temporary active duty orders for Selection Board duty. My second reason for coming was to research and write the dissertation for my doctorate. In May of last year I changed my leave of absence with the university to a resignation in order to accept extended active duty in the Navy.

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ENCLOSURE (A)

"The Navy as an Agent of National Expansion in the Pacific, 1813 to 1846"

This is the story of American sea power from 1813 to 1846 and its deployment in the protection and advancement of American interest in the Pacific basin. It's the story of the naval operations that carried American influence and national power throughout the Pacific, and that laid the foundations for our present day Pacific Empire. It includes the story of the wooden sailing ships which were the forerunners of our present Pacific Fleet, and the story of the naval pioneers who marked out the nation's pathway to world power and contributed as much to our national destiny as the land pioneers who peopled a continent in their westward advance.

America's historically heralded continental expansion during the early half of the Nineteenth Century has its historically neglected maritime counterpart. Between the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, the Pacific was interlaced with naval operations involving fifty-five separate tours of duty by naval vessels, with each ship spending an average of two and one half years on station. These operations thrust American power and influence into four distinct areas of the Pacific basin. First, our sea power was established along the Pacific coast of the South American Continent. Initially the operating line reached from Valparaiso to Guayaquil and subsequently was extended northward to the coast of Mexico. The second area was the island groups of Pacific Oceania. A lasting impact was made in this area by the early naval operations which carried the flag to every island group in the basin. The Greater East Indies, the China coast and Japan make up the third region in which American power and influence was brought to bear by early naval operations. California and the Pacific

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Northwest comprise the fourth region of the Pacific basin in which the navy played a significant role in national expansion. These far flung operations of American naval vessels and the wide ranging activities of the officers manning them charted the course for our present day empire in the Pacific and prepared the way for its evolution.

The Spanish American War, which is often historically cited as marking the beginning of this nation's empire-building, merely ripped apart the veil behind which our imperial destiny in the Pacific basin had been maturing since the first decades of national life. A half century before that war the territorial annexations of the Mexican War and the partitioning of Oregon had brought this nation broad on that ocean. Although these contiguous territorial acquisitions comprise a chapter in the story of continental expansion, the annexations had significant maritime implications both in the national considerations underlying American interest in the areas and the method employed in bringing them under the stars and stripes. The intrinsic value of these continental areas was certainly a factor behind this nation's interest in California and Oregon but an equally strong force underlying that interest was the recognition of their commercial and strategic importance to the Pacific beyond. Moreover, the principal pre-annexation communication and commercial links between these areas and the Atlantic seaboard were maritime connections. Finally, in the case of California, the actual conquest was principally a naval operation.

The Pacific front that the annexation of California and Oregon gave the United States was simultaneously broadened and projected outward shortly after the Civil War by the acquisitions of Alaska, the Aleutian

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chain and Midway Island. This outward thrust was considerably expanded at the turn of the century when, in the wake of the Spanish American War, the Philippine Islands, the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Wake and Eastern Samoa were added to the evolving empire. These insular acquisitions, far from being a beginning or an aberration, were an integral part of the long standing undercurrent—expansion of national power in the Pacific—that had been gathering momentum since the early decades of the Nineteenth Century. Moreover, it was this same security-determined force that clashed with Japanese imperial ambitions in that ocean and precipitated American entry into World War II. Finally, the imposing Oceanic Empire crystallized in the aftermath of World War II is but another manifestation of this long standing national drive for Pacific power; a drive for which the navy has been the primary agential carrier.

Today American sovereignty, in some form, extends over seven major island groups. These are the Aleutian chain, the Hawaiian group, the Samoan, Marshalls, Carolines, Marianas and the Bonin-Volcano group. There are five additional groups to which the United States maintains a claim to either all or most of the islands. These are the Line, Phoenix, Tokelau, Ellice and Cook Islands, and in the first three of these, American sovereignty is recognized over one or more of the single islands. With the exception of these single island possessions the first four groups are administered by Great Britain and the latter by New Zealand. American Oceania also includes more than a dozen single island possessions strategically located throughout the Pacific. These extend from Midway in the north to Swain in the south and from Palmyra in the east to Okinawa

in the west. Located on these holdings are thirty-three separate military installations fanning out westward from Pearl Harbor to a perimeter along the China coast. Admiral Forrest Sherman, Chief of Naval Operations in 1948 was standing in a deep groove of American history when he proclaimed that "strategic control of the Pacific Ocean area" was essential to American security.

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Status (February 1st, 1958) of Naval War College Analysis,
Battle for Leyte Gulf:

(a) Volume I - Allied operations (COMTHIRDEFLT, Admiral William F. Halsey) against the Nansei Shoto, Formosa, and northern Luzon with Japanese reactions thereto. (October 10th to 0719, October 17th, 1944). 535 pages, 12 plates, 9 diagrams (large)

COMPLETED 1953.

(b) Volume II - Allied advance operations in Leyte Gulf (CTG 77.2, Rear Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf) with Japanese reaction thereto. (0719, October 17th to 2400, October 19th, 1944). 441 pages, 21 plates, 5 diagrams (large)

COMPLETED 1955.

(c) Volume III - Allied landing operations on Leyte (CTF 77, Vice Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid) with Japanese reaction thereto. (0000, October 20th to 1042, October 23rd, 1944). 922 pages, 46 plates, 6 diagrams (large)

COMPLETED 1957.

(d) Volume IV - The approach to Leyte Gulf by Japanese naval and air forces, and the continuity during the three battles. (1042, October 20th to 2400, October 27th, 1944). About TWENTY per cent (20%) completed.

(e) Volume V - Battle of Surigao Strait (Rear Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf), (October 25th, 1944). 772 pages, 24 plates, 17 diagrams (large)

COMPLETED 1959.

(f) Volume VI - Battle off Samar. The battle of the CVE's (Rear Admiral Thomas Sprague) against the Japanese battleships. (October 25th, 1944). About FIVE per cent (5%) completed.

(g) Volume VII - Battle off Cape Engano. The battle between the THIRD Fleet (Admiral William F. Halsey) and the Japanese carriers. (October 25th, 1944). TWENTY per cent (20%) completed.

Enclosure to ltr from
Rear Admiral R. W. BATES, USN (Ret)
of 25 October 1960

ENCLOSURE 2

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Dear Joe:

This letter is to thank you very much for your continued assistance over the past few months, when I was endeavoring to obtain some help from the Navy and later from the Senate in order to give Commodores a better break on the 1963 pay bill. If you will recall, although the Bureau of Naval Personnel, in the person of Vice Admiral Smedberg, did not approve of this proposed legislation, it did open up the subject of endeavoring to complete one or more volumes of my "Leyte Gulf" series. As a result of this, the Navy and I had been endeavoring to find some common ground--what Dr. Howard Johnson of your bureau in a paper he prepared on 28 May 1964 called "Memorandum of Understanding." I did not approve of this and in my letter of 8 June 1964 to Vice Admiral Semmes endeavored to clarify it with seemingly little success as I received no reply. Finally, after talking to Dr. Johnson over the telephone twice in two days and thereby learning that there would most likely be no action of any consequence before 1 October 1964 if then, and realizing that, as of now, there had been little action, I decided to drop the project. This whole matter is discussed in detail in the enclosure (my letter to Dr. Johnson dated 16 June 1964).

It is too bad that our efforts had to end in this fashion, but there seemed to be no other answer, as valuable time was passing with only limited results, and limited understanding.

I hope that next time you come up this way you will give me advance word thereon, so that I can see you and perhaps entertain you. It is doubtful that I will be in Washington for awhile as that last visit of mine cost me \$100.00 (about). If you will recall, I had gone to Washington to see if I could find out what was going on and if I could speed things up. In this connection I had asked that I be given a two day contract to cover my expenses. You directed that this be done, but so far I have received nothing. The Navy is certainly unkind to those who wish to help it out!

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With many thanks again for your assistance and with best wishes to you and yours, I am

As ever
Your old friend,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Rear Admiral J. O. Cobb
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Arlington Annex
Washington 25, D.C.

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12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
January 14, 1964

Dear Admiral Ricketts:

Just before the Army and Navy game I was in Supers over a matter concerning the New Pay Bill. At this time Admiral Smedberg told me that he was thinking of returning me to duty, this time as a Rear Admiral, in order to complete one more volume of my Leyte series. He said that he would make a gentleman's agreement with me for the two years required to complete it. He then advised me to (a) see the doctors to discover whether or not they would let me go back on duty without prejudice to myself physically or to my physical disability rating, and (b) learn whether or not the Naval War College could handle me, and if not, the naval base and station.

I discussed the above with (a) the President of the Naval War College, Vice Admiral Bernard Austin, (b) the Commander Naval Base, Newport (Rear Admiral Arthur Taylor), (c) the Station Commander (Captain Finnigan), and with the Head of the Naval Hospital here (Captain Edward Hogan, M.C.), who replied about as follows:

(1) Admiral Austin said that, although the volume should definitely be written, he could not handle it, because of a lack of both funds and space.

(2) Admiral Taylor and Captain Finnigan have the space but very limited funds, and so cannot handle it at present.

(3) Captain Hogan thinks that I can do the job without running into the difficulties mentioned by Admiral Smedberg.

So, as of now, I have possible space, but no funds.

Admiral Smedberg has indicated that he will order the officers and enlisted men necessary to do the job and will fund that share with Supers money. This is understood, I think, by all concerned. Where the money problem arises is the need for additional money to provide a cartographer, telephone, some transportation, possibly some Japanese translation, and some expenses unknown at this point, but which often arise -- possibly a total tab of \$12,000 for all of the above items.

On the advice of Admiral Smedberg, and because of your continuing interest in this project, I endeavored to see you about this last week, but you were entirely too busy. So I suggested to Admiral Smedberg that he contact you himself, which he may have done by now.

The point at issue seems to be who will provide the "tab." I suggested that Research and Analysis might be willing to do it as my work is along that line, but I have heard nothing.

Have you any thoughts about this?

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Your old friend,

Richard W. Bates
Rear Admiral, U.S.N. (Ret.)

RWB/dw

Admiral Claude Ricketts, U.S.N.
Vice Chief of Naval Operations
Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

0783

12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
January 16, 1964

Dear Joe:

Well, in accordance with Admiral Smedberg's suggestion, I'm off on Saturday for California. Each year since I retired I have done exactly that, departing in the middle of January and returning to New York for the P-T boat annual convention at the end of April.

I was planning to drive out but the snow today (5 inches) in Dallas has convinced me that I had better fly. Last year Ricketts brought me back from San Francisco in his Air Force Jetstar with only four passengers (the Admiral, his wife, his aid and me).

I have written to Admirals Ricketts and Smedberg about my plans so that, should the picture change, they can get me without effort. My address in California will be the Bohemian Club, at Post and Taylor Streets.

I continue to feel that Admiral Smedberg's idea of completing one more volume of the Leyte series is very important and should be done as soon as possible. Nimitz, MacArthur, Kincaid, Carney are getting older and weaker and their memories become less and less responsible. I'd like to be able to produce a draft and then discuss it with those concerned. They generally say that my write-up is right and seems to go along with the facts.

I hope that things continue to go along well with you and yours. You are clearly a wonderful fellow and it is no wonder that "all hands" speak feelingly of you in a most friendly way.

Thanks for your help. Let's hope that we get somewhere with this, this time.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Bates
Rear Admiral, U.S.N. (Ret.)

RWB/dw

Rear Admiral James O. Cobb, U.S.N.
Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel
Arlington Annex
Washington 25, D. C.

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BOHEMIAN CLUB
Post & Taylor Streets
San Francisco, California

10 February, 1964

Dear Joe:

I have now been in California for about three weeks, where, when I arrived, the weather was terrible, with rain, much water, and some snow. I felt that I might have been better off in New England. But now the weather has changed, the sun has been shining, and some days there are signs of spring in the air, and all looks well. However, today I just received a telegram from Pebble Beach that an old friend of mine, Captain H. W. Underwood (called Judge) had passed on--so I shall leave Sacramento this afternoon, for Pebble Beach, as the funeral is tomorrow. At that time I shall hope to see Admiral Raymond Spruance, who, with Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, is as interested as any one in completing at least one more volume of the Battle for Leyte Gulf.

A few days ago I had the unhappy duty of attending the funeral of Admiral F. S. Low (Frog). He was a classmate of mine, and, since he and his wife were old friends, I became one of the eight honorary pallbearers. Frog's departure was quite a surprise to me, as I had understood that he had been improving. As for Underwood, I had heard nothing of his being ill at all. All of this merely means to me that I am in the age band where events of this kind can be expected to occur--even our own.

I am mentioning this to you because I feel that if we are going to finish another volume we ought to get to it. People who were in those battles in the Pacific are gradually passing away, and already one of the key figures, Admiral William Halsey, is no longer with us. However, General of the Army MacArthur is still around. Some years ago I spoke to him at a World Series game--he and I were in the same box, and he got more interested in discussing the events of Leyte than he did in watching the World Series game. Also, Admiral Nimitz is still with us, as is Admiral Thomas Kinkaid, although rumor has it that he is ill in Bethesda.

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I hope things are going along well with you. They are with me here, as there is really no greater pleasure for any one than to see his family and his friends of long ago. I have almost completed seeing my family, so my next mission is to see my friends. This I shall do in the next month and a half, unless you or Admiral Smedberg want to see me, in which case that has priority.

There is little to report other than the above. Finally, I want to say that I was awfully sorry to hear of what happened to Rear Admiral Kirkpatrick, who was to relieve Vice Admiral Smedberg, but there is an ill wind which blows nobody good. By this I mean to say that it is my hope that Admiral Smedberg will remain on duty as the Chief of Personnel until Admiral Kirkpatrick or a relief can be obtained. Certainly, the Navy needs Admiral Smedberg.

With best regards to you and yours, I am,
as ever,

Your old friend,

RICHARD W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.
(ret.)

Rear Admiral J. O. Cobb, U.S.N.
Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel
Arlington Annex
Washington 25, D. C.

RWB mv

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THE ASSISTANT
CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20370

6 March 1964

Dear Rafe:

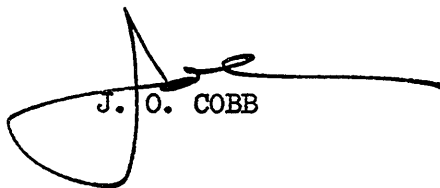
It was very kind of you to write such an interesting letter and I do appreciate it very much. I hope that you had a good visit with Admiral Spruance and Admiral Nimitz.

I am writing to let you know that at present there is no requirement for your returning to Washington in the next month-and-a-half. So, I can wish you the best success in finding your friends of long ago, and hope your visits are most enjoyable.

We also were saddened by the sickness that befell Charlie Kirkpatrick, but I am happy to report that he is doing very well and is subsisting at his home at Annapolis. We have had an unfortunate spate of these attacks and, as they are unpredictable, there is no possible way to prepare for them.

Best regards.

Sincerely,


J. O. COBB

RADM Richard W. BATES, USN(Ret)
BOHEMIAN CLUB
Post & Taylor Streets
San Francisco, California

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VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

20 March 1964

Dear Rafe:

Please forgive me for the long delay in answering your 14 January letter. I wanted to have something encouraging before answering.

Without making a specific promise as to when the project can start or how much money can be made available, I can tell you that it looks as though we may be able to commence this project, as to both people and money, providing the latter approximates your estimation.

Vice Admiral Smedberg will be in correspondence with you as to the details of implementation.

Best of luck.

Most sincerely,

Claude Ricketts
CLAUDE RICKETTS

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN(Ret)
12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island

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BOHEMIAN CLUB
Post & Taylor Streets
San Francisco, California

8 April 1964

Dear Smeddy:

A few days ago, I received a letter from Admiral Claude Ricketts, wherein he stated, in part, "that it looks as though we may be able to commence this project, as to both people and money, providing the latter approximates your estimation," and further stating that you would be in correspondence with me.

I have replied to him to the effect that, not having heard from you, I would call you by telephone tomorrow (Thursday, 9 April 1964). A copy of the above letter is forwarded herewith as an enclosure.

And now I wish to tell you of how much I appreciate your efforts in this matter. For it is largely due to you that the concept of completing another volume of the Leyte series under Naval direction is becoming a reality.

What a man and leader you are, and how sad it is that age, and age alone, is forcing you out of active service! Does any one realize that in 1945 when World War II ended, Fleet Admiral Wm. D. Leahy (born May 6th, 1875) was seventy years of age, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur (born Jan. 26th, 1880) was sixty-five, General of the Army George C. Marshall (born Dec. 31st, 1880) was about sixty-five, and Fleet Admiral Wm. H. Halsey (born October 30th, 1882) was about sixty-three. And why? Because age, coupled with experience, often provides wisdom.

My best wishes go with you,

Very sincerely,

Richard W. Bates
Rear Admiral USN (ret.)

Vice Admiral Wm. Smedberg
Chief of Naval Personnel
Arlington Annex
Washington 25, D. C.

RWB mv

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BOHEMIAN CLUB
Post & Taylor Streets
San Francisco, California
8 April 1964

Dear Admiral Ricketts:

While in Palm Desert, California, after a visit to Mazatlan, Mexico, I received on 30 March a delayed notification from San Francisco's Bohemian Club that a Comd. J. P. Massey had called me about completing an additional volume of my Leyte Gulf study. This was the first word I had received relative to this project. I promptly called Comd. Massey, who informed me that you had held a conference with Vice Admiral Smedberg and others, as a result of which he had been directed to set aside certain funds. He further advised that I would be hearing from you shortly.

So I decided to return to San Francisco where on April 3rd I received your 21 March 1964 letter, which had been forwarded from Newport. Needless to say, I was delighted to hear from you, as your letter not only confirmed my information from Comd. Massey, but also showed your broad understanding of the place of history in the proper study of war, and your readiness to take action to support this understanding. As you know, I had wished to complete my study under a Foundation, but the Foundations were reluctant, largely, I think, because they thought that these War College analyses were properly within the province of the Navy. They seemed to feel that what the Navy "started" the Navy should "finish."

In your letter you stated that "Vice Admiral Smedberg will be in correspondence with you as to the details of implementation." As of now, I have heard nothing from Vice Admiral Smedberg, probably because he has written to me at Newport, from whence his letter must be forwarded to me here. Tomorrow I plan to call him by telephone to discover what he desires that I do.

I am ready to go to Washington "upon signal" as I feel that if this project is to be furthered along it must be started as soon as possible, for alas! all of us, as emphasized by General MacArthur's passing, are getting older.

With best wishes to you, for your continued support, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Richard W. Bates
Rear Admiral USN (ret.)

Admiral Claude Ricketts USN
Vice Chief of Naval Operations
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

RWB mv

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BOHEMIAN CLUB
Post & Taylor Streets
San Francisco, California

11 April 1964

Dear Joe:

While I was in Palm Desert, California, I received on 30 March a delayed notification from San Francisco's Bohemian Club that a Comd. J. P. Massey had called me about completing an additional volume of my Leyte Gulf study. I promptly called Comd. Massey, who told me that the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Ricketts, had held a conference with Vice Admiral Smedberg and others--I suppose you were in on this. Comd. Massey further said that as a result of this conference he had been directed to set aside certain funds.

Because of all of this I decided to return to San Francisco, where on April 3rd I received a letter from Admiral Ricketts dated 20 March 1964. In this letter Admiral Ricketts stated that "Without making a specific promise as to when the project can start or how much money can be made available, I can tell you that it looks as though we may be able to commence this project, as to both people and money, providing the latter approximates your estimation." Admiral Ricketts also said that Vice Admiral Smedberg would write me as to the details of implementation. I waited to hear from Vice Admiral Smedberg for a number of days, but finally, not hearing from him, I went to San Francisco on 9 April and called on Admiral Yoemans, who was not only an old friend but a long supporter of mine. Admiral Yoemans connected me with your office, as he said that you had been promoted to be the Deputy in Personnel, and that Admiral Smedberg had retired.

So I called your office and you were in some conference, but I did get your assistant, a Lieutenant Commander. I didn't get the Lieutenant Commander's name, but he was very helpful and understanding, so I asked him what was in the air and why I was not hearing anything. He told me that you were thoroughly familiar with the whole thing and implied that action had been delayed while I was on a holiday. He further implied that Admiral Irvine was handling at least part of this.

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I am therefore writing to you now to tell you that if we are going to do this thing, I am pretty anxious to get back to discuss it with you, so that we can start on "even keel." I told the Lieutenant Commander that I had to be in New York at the end of this month as I attend a PT boat banquet on the 1st and usually make an address of some kind there. Last year I spoke off the cuff and gave a fairly long talk--10 or 15 minutes--to the effect that you cannot select Commanders with computers alone. To my surprise I got a standing ovation. What I will talk on this time, if I talk at all, I don't quite know. I never really make any plans for the PT boat convention until I get there. You may wonder about this PT boat connection of mine. Lest you have forgotten, I want you to know that I was Commander Motor Torpedo Boats Pacific at the end of the war for the operations against Japan. In fact, I had already reported to Admiral Kincaid for these Japanese operations.

I am now in Sacramento, where I am visiting one of my brothers. I told your Lieutenant Commander over the phone that if they had something they wanted to get to me they could call over the leased wire to the Office of the Commandant, and they would get in touch with me. My mailing address has long been the Bohemian Club, Post & Taylor Streets, San Francisco.

Once again I want to congratulate you on the advancement to the Number Two position in the Office of the Chief of Personnel. This, I think, is a great tribute to you and I hope indicates that you are on your way toward a third star. Very frankly, I have a bias toward officers who have been to one of the better War Colleges and, in particular, to graduates of the Naval War College. Evidently selection boards feel somewhat the same, for half of the Admirals every year seem to be promoted from the Naval War College.

The weather here is wonderful and delightful. Sacramento is bursting into bloom, which makes it look charming. Spring in Sacramento, of course, is not like spring in New England, because Sacramento is generally fairly green, whereas New England is full of "bare poled" trees, ice and snow. Therefore, spring in New England resembles the resurrection.

With warmest regards to you and yours, and best regards to my old friend and your new boss, B. J. Semmes, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Richard W. Bates
Rear Admiral USN (ret.)

Admiral J. O. Cobb, USN
Office of the Chief of Naval Personnel
Washington, D. C.

0792

BOHEMIAN CLUB
Post & Taylor Streets
San Francisco, California

11 April 1964

Dear Rip:

Today, as I was watching the MacArthur funeral services in Norfolk, the announcer said that among the many close associates with MacArthur in war present at the services was Arthur D. Struble. This reminded me that I ought to write you a letter about my trip out here and what the future holds in store.

I went out to California via civilian jet on the 19th of January and promptly went to Sacramento. I had left the east coast not only because I have been doing this customarily for the last five years, but also because the weather in New England was pretty cold. The weather, in fact, was really quite cold, as even in New York it was 15 degrees F. However, on my arrival in California it rained heavily for about five or six days, with the result that I should have preferred to remain in New England. In New England the weather was cold and dry, with dry snow, whereas here in Sacramento the weather was wet and windy. However, when the weather finally cleared up it was really delightful.

After being here a few days I happened to read in the press about Frog Low's death, so I called in to the Commandant to see if I could be of service. He was delighted and said that Alice Low was also delighted, so, as I wrote you long ago, I became one of the eight honorary pallbearers. Another one of the eight was my old roommate, Leverett Lewis, whom I had not seen for many years. It can be said, then, that the funeral of Frog Low brought together two old pals who had lived together for four years in the Naval Academy and were still on friendly terms.

I visited in ~~SACRAMENTO~~ for a few days, and since my brother is an investment banker and handles my portfolio (ha! ha!), I made it a point to look the portfolio over, as well as my Will. All classmates should realize that a Will is very important and should be made out properly. I noticed in today's paper that Senator Kerr, from Oklahoma, had died without having brought his Will up to date. This meant that the Federal Government took about half of his estate because the Will was written under some old laws.

0793

Then in early February I went to Oak Knoll Hospital to have my prostate checked. You will recall that for several years I was charged with having cancer of the prostate by about four of the finest urologists in New England and San Francisco. I therefore had gone to Oak Knoll Hospital and had a biopsy performed, which proved to be entirely negative. What a relief this was to me. However, I was advised--and in this connection I advise all of my classmates to the same effect--that I should have it checked every six months. This is because as we get older and our bodies become less resistant, diseases of this nature can suddenly appear. I now have it checked twice a year, once in Newport and once in California, by experts who are familiar with my history. In all cases the medical staff have found me perfectly normal, with no urological problems as yet.

During my stay in San Francisco, as you well know, Raymond Wright died. Since I wrote to you about this also, I do not choose to discuss it here, excepting to say that I was disappointed that no member of our class was present at the funeral. He died on Wednesday, I think, and I called on Friday morning to offer my services. His daughter, whom I think he had adopted, and who was very kind and pleasant, said that she appreciated my call, but that the General had been buried that morning.

For your information, I waited around the San Francisco-Sacramento area for a longer time than was usual with me because I was expecting some correspondence from the Chief of Naval Personnel and the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. This had to do with the possibility that I would be asked to write another volume of my Leyte Gulf series. Finally, I received a note from Bupers advising me to go on my usual holiday, which I decided to do. Therefore, after attending a dinner given by the Bohemian Club for Prince Bertil of Sweden, who was very clever, I made arrangements to go on my southern jaunt.

On March 9th I departed for Pebble Beach, where I was a guest for five days of the Henry Balseys. Balsey is of the Class of '14 and has a perfectly wonderful wife, Peggy, who has many great hostess qualifications. Henry, himself, had just won the cribbage championship of Pebble Beach. I played him quite frequently and I must admit that at first he was devastating, but as my luck improved I finally walloped him, much to his disgust.

While in Pebble Beach many of my friends did things for me. Among these were Admiral and Mrs. Raymond Spruance, who gave a dinner for me at the Monterey Country Club. I found Admiral Spruance and his wonderful Margaret in great shape. At this point I want to divert long enough to say that while in San Francisco I visited Admiral Chester Nimitz at his headquarters on Treasure Island, and found him also in great shape. As you know, he had fallen and hurt his leg, but was now improving greatly.

On Monday, the 16th of March, I left for Mazatlan, Mexico, from Los Angeles. The trip took two hours and a half and was by British, Comet, jet. I enjoyed it thoroughly, as it gave me a chance to look over the coast line where I had served as an Ensign in 1916-17. My stay in Mazatlan for the first week was delightful. I stayed at the Hotel DeCima, which had a very fine swimming pool. There was a beach nearby, but the temperature of the sea water was reported 55 degrees F. This shook me as I had expected about 80 degrees. Because the marlin were running plentifully, I decided to go marlin fishing. I took a couple of friends I had met in Mazatlan. We leased a fishing cruiser and went thirty miles to sea in the so-called marlin area. The weather was very rough and my friends got seasick. We did not get a bite, nor even sight a marlin. Nor, I understand, did any of the others—about twelve fishing cruisers—fishing at the same time. The weather continued bad for the next few days, so I decided to fish for Spanish mackerel. Here I had great luck and with a friend caught eleven mackerel in twenty minutes. These mackerel I enjoyed greatly and I fished no more.

Finally, after about two weeks, with the weather not improving too much, I flew back to Los Angeles, and with a brother of mine went to Palm Desert, which is near Palm Springs. The weather in the desert was much better than it was in Mazatlan, and needless to say I enjoyed it thoroughly. I went swimming in the pool every day. I watched the Red Sox play. I watched the polo match between Mexico and the El Dorado Club of Palm Desert, and I went up on the tramway recently installed at Palm Springs. This is quite a remarkable installation and took me up from 2,000 to 8,000 feet in about eleven minutes. Although the temperature in the desert was about 80 degrees F., the temperature at 8,000 feet was, I think, 47 degrees F., with 24 inches of snow on the ground.

My brother drove me over the mountain 100 miles to Coronado, where I stayed at the Hotel Del Coronado. This hotel, as you probably know, has been renovated and is certainly a great improvement over recent years. However, it is not inexpensive. While there I saw Harry and Ann Campman, who seemed to be enjoying a very happy life. Ann looks extremely young and is playing a great deal of tennis, whereas Harry is a little less active in athletics, but a little more so in social activities, such as the English Speaking Union.

I also saw Skeeter and Belle Mitchel, who had me to tea. Both of them look quite well, although Belle has been through some physical difficulties, largely brought on, I suppose, because of her great enthusiasm for and interest in politics. She is quite a conservative, as I think most of us are, as well. Skeeter and Horse Pennoyer continue to play violently competitive games of golf against each other, with very little money changing hands. Horse and Peggy Pennoyer were my principal sponsors while I was there, as they always are. Horse made arrangements for me at the hotel, Horse offered me an automobile, Horse and Peggy had a dinner for me--what more could one ask? They both look well. However, Horse and Skeeter play so much golf that both of them have the leathery look which I normally attribute to the "Leathernecks." Peggy looks extremely well, and, because of her high courage and morale, is improving steadily in her ability to learn to speak again. What a girl she is!

I saw a considerable amount of our old friend Lilian McCormick. She has a nice small house on Glorietta Blvd., is enjoying herself greatly, is extremely popular among her many friends, and seems to have finally dropped anchor for good. I have known her so long, with such affection, that it was a great delight to me to see her obvious happiness in her relatively new surroundings. It must be remembered that she originally came from San Diego.

Ethel Jones
Evelyn Jones, whose husband was Baldy Jones of the Class of 1907, had a lunch for me which I enjoyed, particularly the popovers, and she very kindly took me to La Jolla, where we were guests at luncheon with Admiral Frank Fahrion and his lovely wife Kay Dwyer. The lunch was at the La Jolla Beach Club, which is a charming place. I had some sanddabs, which are quite famous in California, and which I enjoyed thoroughly. One of the guests at the luncheon was Louise Hederman, the widow of Henry Hederman who died several years ago. To show you how kind people were to me, Mrs. Jones also offered me her new Lincoln Continental to drive around in. To her surprise I said I preferred taxis in Coronado.

While in Coronado, Dick and Ada Barry gave a party at their home—a KT party—for a couple of friends of theirs from Newport, Ben and Kitty Mouse Cook. They were very impressed with California and wanted to know how come I lived in Newport when California seemed so remarkable. I replied that I had been in Newport sixteen straight years, mostly on duty at the War College, and that most of my friends were there now. I think that it isn't the sun or the rain or the flowers or the sand, or the wind or no wind, which makes life enjoyable—no, it isn't these—it is one's friends, and almost that alone.

I am now back in Sacramento, where I am awaiting word from the Navy Department as to the final decision regarding an additional book. The indications are better than 75 per cent at this point that we are going to do something about it, so you may expect me in the East shortly.

With the hope that this letter of mine isn't too long—I wanted to make it long so I could cover a broad area—and with best wishes to you and to those that work with you on the Class Bulletin, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Richard W. Bates
Rear Admiral USN (ret.)

Admiral Arthur D. Struble, USN
4017 Oxford Street
Chevy Chase
Washington, D. C.

RWB mv

BOHEMIAN CLUB
Post & Taylor Streets
San Francisco, California

14 April 1964

Dear Judge:

Judging from the various actions of various top naval leaders, I am getting more than ever convinced that the question will be settled very shortly as to whether or not the WWII Battle Evaluation Group will be finally reopened. While wintering at Palm Desert (near Palm Springs), I received a note from the Bohemian Club, San Francisco, telling me that Washington wanted me on the telephone. I called Washington and was informed by Commander J. P. Massey that he had been directed to put aside, as a start, \$10,000.00 for my project. He also told me that I would be hearing shortly from the Vice Chief of Naval Operations (Admiral Ricketts). He said that Admiral Ricketts, Admiral Smedberg, and some other admirals—including, I presume, you—had held a meeting and made some basic decisions thereon.

Sure enough, in a few days I received a letter from Admiral Ricketts dated 21 March, to the effect that if things panned out as planned, as seemed likely, my section would be reopened. He seemed very pleased in his letter and seemed to be cheering me on in his comments. He also said that I would be hearing from Admiral Smedberg very shortly. I have heard nothing from Admiral Smedberg and the reason seems obvious—he has retired and is visiting in Florida. My old friend B. J. Semmes is now in the saddle.

I wrote to Smedberg about all of this and I have written again to Admiral Ricketts. A few days ago I visited Admiral Yoemans, Commandant of the 12 ND, and I told him about my problem. So he hooked me into Bupers—the office of Admiral J. O. Cobb, the Deputy. Cobb was away on some board, so I talked to some Lieutenant Commander in his office. It was all very pleasant, and the Lieutenant Commander said that Admiral Cobb was familiar with the whole thing, as was Admiral Irvine, who was going to handle it.

0798

I am making arrangements to go to Washington whenever I am wanted, and I have already shipped some of my clothes back to Newport. Meanwhile--today, in fact--I have written to Miss Mabel Smith, civilian assistant at the Naval War College, who is in charge of the classified files. I have asked her to see if she can locate my file cabinets. If you will recall, you recommended--in fact, more or less ordered--that the WWII Evaluation Group files be locked up and carefully stowed away for future use. You were convinced that the section would be reopened, and I must say you seem to have been right.

I am now writing to you to tell you about what is going on--if you don't know--and to ask you, also, if you would be kind enough to have your people look around for the files in your place, as well. Mrs. Tanaka, my principal Japanese translator, had large files in an office nearby to yours.

The reason I am being very careful about these files is that I think it would be silly to reopen the section for a limited time without my old files being available. Of course, we can use the references at the bottom of the pages of the four completed volumes to find some of the papers, but all necessary papers are not necessarily listed in the footnotes.

I certainly hope things are going along well with you and that the Department of History is growing by leaps and bounds. Certainly the place of History in modern war is really very important, and for the doubters there is more a possibility of limited war than of nuclear war.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Richard W. Bates
Rear Admiral USN (ret.)

Rear Admiral E. M. Eller USN
Chief of Naval History
Main Navy
Constitution Avenue
Washington 25, D. C.

RWB mv

BOHEMIAN CLUB
Post & Taylor Streets
San Francisco, California

April 14, 1964

Dear Mabel:

There is a move afoot to re-establish my WWII Battle Evaluation Group. In fact, I was wintering in the desert--Palm Desert--where Eisenhower is--but I had to come back to San Francisco because of the above. If this section is to be re-established it should be finally determined in the next several weeks.

Because of this fact, I would appreciate your interest and help if you would look around to discover where the WWII Evaluation Group files are. If you will recall, when my section was closed in 1959 the files were very carefully locked up and stowed away in the College somewhere. I say "somewhere" advisedly, because different presidents and different administrative officers move things around a bit. However, they should not have done much with my files because the Chief of History had given basic instructions regarding the handling of these files. This was because he expected that sooner or later the Group would be re-established. It is very important to me to discover the status of the above files because I don't want to reopen my Battle for Leyte Gulf study without any of the proper material. It took me some years to get sufficient material in the files, including translations from the Japanese, in Washington, to be able to make some very valuable comments regarding the major actions which occurred on the 25th of October, 1944. By years, I mean that from time to time we received new information from various sources.

Needless to say, it was with great regret that I saw General MacArthur pass on. This regret was not only because of the loss to the American people, but the loss to me in my studies. I only really talked to MacArthur once on this subject. I had planned to talk more when I got to the point of the major battles, at which time I planned to consult with the principal leaders--Admiral Nimitz, Admiral Kinkaid, and Admiral Halsey.

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I am writing to you about this, Mabel, because should I be called upon to go from San Francisco to Washington direct, rather than via Newport, I wish to be able to call you, personally, and obtain from you a reply to the above queries. I know that this is somewhat of an imposition, but since you imposed upon me about half of your life I think I can impose once. (Ha! Ha!)

I hope that your brother is improving steadily--that you, yourself, have finally achieved your degree from the University, and that all is well with you and with your section.

I haven't said anything about this to the Naval War College--that is, about the reopening of the section, because it may not be opened under the War College, but may be reopened as an individual operation directly for the CNO or the Chief of History.

With best regards and appreciations for any answers you may find--good or bad--I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Richard W. Bates
Rear Admiral USN (ret.)

Miss Mabel Smith
Civilian Staff
Mahan Hall
Naval War College
Newport, R. I.

RWB mv



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20370

IN REPLY REFER TO

23 April 1964

Dear Rafe:

I wish to follow up on Admiral Rickett's letter of 20 March 1964 to you in which he stated that your project to write some additional history of the Pacific War could commence soon.

As you are aware, Vice Admiral Smedberg has retired, and I am taking over his duties as they relate to your project. Progress is being made, but a little time will be needed to work out the details. Briefly, it is planned to provide you with working space at Newport, R. I., and funds to defray your expenses will come from the Department of the Navy. With luck I hope you can be in business before the end of June 1964. Additional information will be supplied you as it becomes available.

Here in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Dr. H. O. Johnson, Pers-Clb, Senior Educational Advisor, Instructional Standards and Materials Division, has been assigned the duty of coordinating the work from the Department of the Navy end. As soon as feasible, will you please forward to him statements of your needs as you see them now? He undoubtedly will correspond with you directly as the work progresses. Please call on him for information and assistance. His telephone number is OXford 42012.

Best wishes for a most worthwhile effort.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
J. O. COBB
(In absence
of R. H. Heyward)

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN (Ret.)
Bohemian Club
Post & Taylor Streets
San Francisco, California

PEOPLE TO THE FORE IN 1964

0802



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

23 APR 1964

Dear Rafe:

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Best wishes for a most worthwhile effort.

Sincerely,

J. O. COBB
(in absence of
RADM HEYWARD)

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN (Ret.)
Bohemian Club
Post & Taylor Streets
San Francisco, California

0803



THE ASSISTANT
CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20370

23 APR 1964

Dear Rafe:

Hopefully, this will catch you before you come East.

I am certainly happy everything seems to be working out so well for you. I understand Dr. Johnson, from Rear Admiral Don Irvine's shop, has contacted you about the details.

If there is anything I can do to be of further assistance -- please don't hesitate to call on me.

Thanks for your kind words anent my new assignment. I look forward to the challenge.

Best regards.

*Sorry to miss
you (twice) on
the telephone. I
really am not
out of my office
as often as it may seem.*

Sincerely,

J. O. COBB

Rear Admiral Richard W. BATES, USN(Ret)
BOHEMIAN CLUB
Post and Taylor Streets
San Francisco, California

0804

12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 8, 1964

Dear B. J.:

I am very unhappy that I found it necessary to comment adversely on the plans being made to re-establish the World War II Battle Evaluation Group. I had spent a lot of time and a lot of money over the years endeavoring to re-establish the Group under a Foundation. I was therefore highly pleased when, in addition to the Chief of Naval History, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Chief of Naval Personnel, took a strong interest in having one or more additional volumes of the Leyte series completed one way or another.

Some time before Christmas the then Chief of Naval Personnel (Vice Admiral William Smedberg) informed me (in his office in the Arlington Annex) that it had been decided to re-establish the above WWII BEG with me as a Rear Admiral heading it. He suggested that I get myself cleared by Medicine and Surgery as regards my physical disability (I have now, and have had since the War, a bundle branch block of my heart). This I did, and reported favorably thereon to Vice Admiral Smedberg. He then said that he would set up the group presently -- that the problem was getting the money, but he thought that that could be managed. Your assistant, Rear Admiral Cobb, is thoroughly familiar with this as he was generally present when the matter was being discussed.

I was advised to take my usual winter trip to California while the details were being worked out. This I did. Finally in March (I believe) while I was in Palm Desert, California, a telephone call came from a Commander J. P. Massey informing me that funds were being set aside. I promptly shortened my visit to southern California and headed back to San Francisco. A series of telephone calls to and from Washington ensued and I was advised to delay coming east until I had received a letter from your bureau. This was finally received about two weeks ago, so I immediately came to Washington to expedite details. You can therefore imagine my surprise when I went into your office to congratulate you personally on your assignment as Chief of Naval Personnel, to learn that, instead of being recalled to duty as a Rear Admiral, I was to be recalled to duty as a Commodore. Since this was not the rank that had been promised, I found it necessary then and there to decline the offer. Fortunately, you explained that Vice Admiral Smedberg had not told you about this, and that you would look into it. Needless to say, if I had known of the Commodore plan earlier I never would have considered it.

One reason for this is the local ill effect it might have. We endeavor to build goodwill -- you certainly succeeded in your command here -- and then we do something that might tend to irritate the responsible citizenry. Very few have understood this Commodore-Rear Admiral situation in my life. They could not seem to understand why I was a Commodore during working hours and a Rear Admiral after hours. This was really because we have retired Rear Admirals here such as Charlie Andrews, Henry Eccles, Daniel Carlson, Harry McIlhenny, and others, who are many, many numbers junior to me on the list and yet they received a social priority over me because their only rank was Rear Admiral, Retired. While this may not seem important, it really is, in this area. It causes much confusion possibly because of the fact that so many people know me and, shall I say, seem to respect me. If this were not so, how could I be President, for example, of Newport's Clambake Club?

That a former Chief of Naval Personnel felt this way is shown by the fact that when I was invited to be the Grand Marshal of the Aquitennial Parade at Minneapolis in the summer of 1958 (I was followed in 1959 by Vice President Nixon), the Chief of Naval Personnel (Vice Admiral James Holloway) suggested that I accept. He further directed that I go in my correct rank, i.e., Rear Admiral, which I did.

Meanwhile, I have inspected the prospective office for the WWII BEG and find that, with a few simple changes, it will be quite satisfactory. I have found that my old files seem to be intact, and I have written to one Captain and two Chiefs (all retired), who were once in my old group here, to learn

0805

if they are willing to come back to duty.

And so I sit at this moment!

With best wishes to you and yours, I am

As ever your old friend,

Richard W. Bates
Rear Admiral, U.S.N. (Ret.)

RWB/dw

Vice Admiral B. J. Semmes, U.S.N.
Chief of Naval Personnel
Arlington Annex
Navy Department
Washington 25, D. C.

0806